

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for providing television programming, comprising:
2 providing access to television programming to enable a customer of a broker to create a
3 custom channel including at least one television program selected from the
4 television programming; and
5 transmitting the custom channel from the broker to the customer.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising simultaneously transmitting to
2 the customer the custom channel and at least one other custom channel, the at least one
3 other custom channel including at least one television program selected from the
4 television programming.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 pre-recording a television program; and
3 transmitting to the customer a custom channel including the pre-recorded television
4 program.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing at least one access
2 code to the customer, the access code enabling the customer to access the television
3 programming.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising assigning an access level to the
2 at least one access code, the access level identifying at least one category of television
3 programming the customer is prohibited from accessing.

1 6. A method for providing television programming, comprising:
2 providing a program guide including a listing of television programming received by a
3 broker from at least one provider;
4 providing access to the program guide to enable a customer of the broker to select at least
5 one television program from the television programming;
6 adding the at least one selected television program to a custom channel; and
7 transmitting the custom channel from the broker to the customer.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising pre-recording the at least one
2 selected television program.

1 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising prohibiting access by the
2 customer to at least one category of television programming.

1 9. A method for providing television programming, comprising:
2 providing a program guide including a listing of television programming available from a
3 provider;
4 providing access to the program guide to enable a customer of a broker to select at least
5 one television program from the television programming;
6 generating custom channel data identifying the at least one selected television program;
7 and
8 sending the custom channel data from the broker to the provider.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising sending the custom channel
2 data to one of a cable television provider and a direct-to-home satellite provider.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising prohibiting access by the
2 customer to at least one category of television programming.

12. A method for providing television programming, comprising:
receiving from a broker custom channel data associated with a customer, the custom
channel data identifying selected television programming for at least one custom
channel; and
transmitting the at least one custom channel to the customer.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising encrypting a signal
comprising the at least one custom channel.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising pre-recording a television
program and including the pre-recorded television program in the at least one custom
channel.

15. A method of creating a custom channel, comprising:
selecting at least one television program from a listing of available television
programming;
selecting a time for viewing the at least one selected television program; and
adding the at least one selected television program and the selected time to a custom
channel.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
selecting from the listing of available television programming a second television
program;
selecting a second time for viewing the second television program, the second time
delayed relative to a scheduled broadcast time for the second television program;
and
adding the second television program and the second time to the custom channel.

1 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 selecting from the listing of available television programming a second television
3 program;
4 selecting a second time for viewing the second television program at least partially
5 coinciding with the selected time for viewing the at least one selected television
6 program; and
7 adding the second television program and the second time to another custom channel.

1 18. A system for providing television programming, comprising:
2 a receiver to receive television programming from at least one provider;
3 a customer interface providing access to the television programming to enable a customer
4 of a broker to create a custom channel including at least one television program
5 selected from the television programming; and
6 a transmitter coupled to the receiver, the transmitter to transmit the custom channel from
7 the broker to the customer.

1 19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a database memory to store
2 custom channel data identifying television programs comprising the custom channel.

1 20. The system of claim 18, the customer interface including one of an
2 electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based
3 electronic program guide.

1 21. The system of claim 18, further comprising a video storage medium
2 coupled to the receiver, the video storage medium to receive and store television
3 programming.

1 22. The system of claim 18, further comprising an encryption device coupled
2 to the transmitter, the encryption device to encrypt a signal comprising the custom
3 channel prior to transmission to the customer.

1 23. The system of claim 18, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the
2 customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code.

1 24. A system for providing television programming, comprising:
2 a customer interface providing access to a listing of television programming available
3 from a provider to enable a customer of a broker to create a custom channel
4 including at least one program selected from the television programming; and
5 a controller to generate custom channel data identifying the at least one selected
6 television program and to send the custom channel data from the broker to the
7 provider.

1 25. The system of claim 24, further comprising a database memory to store
2 the custom channel data.

1 26. The system of claim 24, the customer interface including one of an
2 electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based
3 electronic program guide.

1 27. The system of claim 24, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the
2 customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code.

1 28. An article of manufacture, comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium, said machine accessible medium providing instructions
3 that, when executed by a machine, cause said machine to:
4 provide access to television programming to enable a customer of a broker to
5 create a custom channel including at least one television program selected
6 from the television programming; and
7 transmit the custom channel from the broker to the customer.

1 29. The article of claim 28, said instructions, when executed, further causing
2 said machine to simultaneously transmit to the customer the custom channel and at least
3 one other custom channel, the at least one other custom channel including at least one
4 television program selected from the television programming

1 30. The article of claim 28, said instructions, when executed, further causing
2 said machine to:
3 pre-record a television program; and
4 transmit to the customer a custom channel including the pre-recorded television program.